In the Claims

Please amend claims 1 and 12 as indicated below:

1. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** An email filtering method comprising:

defining at least one heuristic that determines whether an incoming email message likely constitutes unsolicited commercial email by considering an established pattern that such unsolicited commercial email typically exhibits when it is sent;

applying said at least one heuristic to at least one email message that is received by a web server that comprises part of a web-based email system in which, for at least some users of the system, a client user interface email environment is generated through use of HTML or web pages; and

redirecting said at least one email message if application of said at least one heuristic indicates that said at least one email message likely constitutes unsolicited commercial email,

wherein said redirecting comprises placing a copy of the email message at a location not dedicated to storage of just one particular user's email.

2. **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 1, wherein said redirecting comprises placing a copy of the email message at a single location from which it can be accessed by more than one intended recipient of the email message.

3. **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 1, wherein said defining comprises defining a plurality of heuristics that are independent of the message conveyed by any of the content contained in an email message.

4. **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 1, wherein said at least one heuristic has at least one parameter that can be adjusted, and further comprising adjusting said at least one parameter to vary the pattern that is considered.

5. **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 1, wherein said at least one heuristic considers a pattern associated with the number of specified recipient addresses of the email message.

6. **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 5, wherein the pattern is associated with the number of invalid specified recipient addresses.

7. **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 1, wherein said at least one heuristic considers a pattern associated with the size of an email message.

8. **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 1, wherein said at least one heuristic considers patterns associated with the number of specified recipient addresses of the email message and the size of the email message.

9. **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 1 further comprising after said redirecting, notifying at least one intended recipient that an email message intended for them has been redirected.

10. **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 1, wherein said redirecting comprising redirecting said at least one email message to a location that can be shared by a plurality of intended recipients for reading said email message, and further comprising after said redirecting, notifying intended recipients of the email message that an email message intended for them has been redirected to said location.

11. **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 10, wherein said redirecting comprises storing only one copy of the email message.

12. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** An email filtering method comprising:

receiving an email message at an email server that maintains inboxes for individual recipients, wherein the email message is addressed to a plurality of recipients, the email server comprising part of an Internet-based email system in which, for at least some users of the system, a client user interface email environment is generated through use of HTML or web pages;

calculating a score for the email message at the server location based upon at least one of (a) the size of the email message, and (b) the number of specified recipient addresses;

comparing the score with a threshold value that defines a likelihood of whether an email message constitutes an unwanted email message;

responsive to the email message exceeding the threshold value, placing a copy of the email message at a first location other than an individual storage location dedicated to an individual ~~any of the~~ intended recipients~~'~~ of the email message ~~inboxes~~; and

sending a notification to the intended recipients that a copy of an email message that was intended for them has been placed at the first location.

13. **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 12, wherein the threshold value is determined independent of the message conveyed by any of the text that is contained in any part of the email message.

14. **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 12, wherein the score is based upon both the size of the email message and the number of specified recipient addresses.

15. **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 12, wherein said first location is a storage location that is managed by the email server.

16. **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 12, wherein said threshold value is based upon the number of invalid specified recipient addresses.

17. **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 12, wherein said sending of the notification comprises placing a pointer in an email folder of each recipient of the email message.

18. **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 12 further comprising responsive to a request from a recipient, making a recipient copy of the email message and placing the recipient copy at a dedicated recipient storage location.

19. **(PREVIOUSLY AMENDED)** A computer program stored on one or more computer readable media for processing email, the program comprising the following steps:

receiving an email message at a server location, the email message being addressed to a plurality of recipients, the server location comprising one or more servers that comprise part of an Internet-based email system in which, for at least some users of the system, a client user interface email environment is generated by the system through use of HTML or web pages that are sent via the Internet to client devices and used by a browser executing on a client device to render the user interface email environment;

placing only one copy of the email message at a first storage location that is not a dedicated storage location for just one of the intended recipients; and

notifying each of the intended recipients that an email message intended for them has been placed at the first location.

20. **(ORIGINAL)** The steps of claim 19, wherein the first storage location is a storage location that is managed by a server associated with the server location.

21. **(ORIGINAL)** The steps of claim 19, wherein the first storage location is a storage location that is managed by a server associated with the server location, and is accessible to any of the intended recipients.

22. **(ORIGINAL)** The steps of claim 19, wherein said notifying comprises creating a pointer to the first location, and placing the pointer at a plurality of second locations each of which being dedicated to a different one of the intended recipients, wherein individual recipients can use the pointer to access the email message at the first storage location.

23. **(ORIGINAL)** The steps of claim 19 further comprising prior to said placing:

defining a profile of unwanted email messages based upon at least one of: the size of an email message, the number of specified recipient addresses, and the number of invalid specified recipient addresses;

determining whether an email message meets the profile; and

wherein said placing and said notifying takes place only if the email message meets the profile.

24. **(ORIGINAL)** A programmed email server that contains computer-readable instructions which, when executed by the email server, perform the following steps:

determining whether an email message that is received by the email server likely constitutes an unwanted email message, the email server comprising part of a web-based email system in which, for at least some users of the system, a client user interface email environment is generated through use of HTML or web pages that are sent to client devices; and

if the email message likely constitutes an unwanted email message:

storing a copy of the email message at a first storage location rather than individual storage locations that are dedicated to individual intended recipients of the email message; and

notifying intended recipients of the email message that an email message addressed to them has been received by the server.

25. **(ORIGINAL)** The steps of claim 24, wherein said determining takes place without considering the message conveyed by any content of the sender's address field, the subject field, or the message field.

26. **(ORIGINAL)** The steps of claim 24 further comprising enabling intended recipients, if they so desire, to read the email message at the first storage location.

27. **(ORIGINAL)** The steps of claim 26, wherein said enabling comprises doing so without making any copies of the copy of the email message at the first storage location.

28. **(ORIGINAL)** The steps of claim 26 further comprising receiving instructions from an intended recipient that a copy of the email message be made specifically for them, and responsive thereto, making a copy of the email message, and storing said copy at a recipient-specific location.

29. **(ORIGINAL)** The steps of claim 24, wherein said determining takes place by considering the size of the email message.

30. **(ORIGINAL)** The steps of claim 24, wherein said determining takes place by considering the number of specified recipient addresses of the email message.

31. **(ORIGINAL)** The steps of claim 24, wherein said determining takes place by considering the number of invalid specified recipient addresses.

32. **(ORIGINAL)** The steps of claim 24, wherein said determining takes place by defining a plurality of heuristics that establish a profile of unwanted email messages, wherein the profile considers factors that are independent of any message conveyed by an email message's content, and applying the plurality of heuristics to an email message.

33. **(ORIGINAL)** The steps of claim 32, wherein the heuristics are adjustable.

34. **(PREVIOUSLY AMENDED)** An email screening method comprising:

developing a profile of unsolicited commercial email based upon the size of an email message and the number of specified recipient addresses of the email message;

configuring a mail server that is responsible for storing and distributing email messages to a plurality of clients with a filter processor that is programmed to evaluate email messages that are received in light of the developed profile, the mail server comprising part of a web-based email system in which, for at least some users of the system, a client user interface email environment is generated through use of HTML or web pages that are sent to client devices;

evaluating email messages with the filter processor and determining whether the email messages fit the developed profile; and

if an email message fits the developed profile, initiating a remedial measure that ensures that the mail server does not make as many copies of the email message as there are specified recipient addresses.

35. **(ORIGINAL)** The email screening method of claim 34, wherein said remedial measure comprises storing one copy of the email message at a server storage location, instead of storing multiple copies of the email message for the specified recipient addresses.

36. **(ORIGINAL)** The email screening method of claim 34, wherein said remedial measure comprises storing one copy of the email message at a server storage location, instead of storing multiple copies of the email message for the specified recipient addresses, and notifying intended recipients that an email message intended for them has been stored at the server storage location.

37. **(ORIGINAL)** The email screening method of claim 34, wherein said remedial measure comprises storing one copy of the email message at a server storage location, instead of storing multiple copies of the email message for the specified recipient addresses, and notifying intended recipients that an email message intended for them has been stored at the server storage location by placing a pointer in a designated email folder for the intended recipients.

38. **(ORIGINAL)** The email screening method of claim 37 further comprising, for each recipient who so desires, reading the email message from the server storage location.

39. **(ORIGINAL)** The email screening method of claim 37 further comprising, for each recipient who so desires, copying the email message from the server storage location to a recipient-location.

40. **(PREVIOUSLY AMENDED)** An email delivery method comprising:

establishing a bulk email folder in which bulk email is to be stored;

configuring an email server to receive email messages and deliver them either to multiple server storage locations that are dedicated to storing email messages for respective recipients or to a single, shared location that can be shared by a plurality of the recipients, the email server comprising part of an email system in which, for at least some users of the system, a client user interface email environment is generated through use of HTML or web pages that are sent to client devices;

receiving an email message;

comparing an address for the sender of the email message with a recipient's list of approved senders; and

delivering the email message to the single, shared location if: (a) the email message is not directly addressed to a recipient that is serviced by the server, and (b) the sender's address does not appear in the recipient's list of approved senders.

41. **(ORIGINAL)** The email delivery method of claim 40 further comprising maintaining the email message at the single, shared location only for a determinable amount of time.

42. **(PREVIOUSLY AMENDED)** An email screening method comprising:

developing a profile of unwanted email messages based upon whether an email message is similar in content to another email message;

configuring a mail server that is responsible for storing email messages for a plurality of clients with a filter processor that is programmed to evaluate email messages that are received in light of the developed profile, the mail server

comprising part of an email system in which, for at least some users of the system, a client user interface email environment is generated through use of HTML or web pages that are sent to client devices;

evaluating email messages with the filter processor and determining whether the email message fits the developed profile; and

if the email message fits the developed profile, placing a copy of the email message in a first location and, rather than placing multiple copies of the email message in multiple dedicated client storage locations, notifying the multiple clients that an email message addressed to them has been received so that the clients can read the email message if they so desire.

43. **(PREVIOUSLY AMENDED)** An email screening method comprising:

defining an index having values that are assigned to various degrees of desirability that an email message can have, wherein the degrees of desirability extend from a low degree of desirability to a high degree of desirability;

associating a plurality of parameters having parameter values with the various degrees of desirability, wherein at least some of the parameters do not depend on any message that is conveyed by any content of an email message; and

establishing a user interface through which a user can adjust either (a) individual parameter values that, in turn, establish a degree of desirability, or (b) index values that themselves establish a degree of desirability that email messages must have in order to be saved to dedicated user storage locations; and

evaluating, using a computing device comprising part of an email system in which, for at least some users of the system, a client user interface email

environment is generated through use of HTML or web pages that are sent to client devices, incoming email messages against the index value that is defined by the user.

44. **(ORIGINAL)** The email screening method of claim 43, wherein the parameter values are adjustable.

45. **(ORIGINAL)** The email screening method of claim 43, wherein one of the parameters is associated with the number of specified recipient addresses.

46. **(ORIGINAL)** The email screening method of claim 43, wherein one of the parameters is associated with a percentage of invalid specified recipient addresses.

47. **(ORIGINAL)** The email screening method of claim 43, wherein one of the parameters is associated with the size of an email message.

48. **(PREVIOUSLY AMENDED)** An email server system comprising:

a user storage database configured to store user information including email messages that are intended for individual users; and

a server configured to receive email messages that are intended for various users and store the email messages in dedicated user storage locations within the user storage database;

wherein the server is further configured to screen email messages based upon a set of heuristics that determine whether an email message likely constitutes an unwanted email message, the server further being configured to place a single copy of an email message in a storage location that is not a dedicated user storage location if it is determined by screening the email message that it likely constitutes an unwanted email message, said system comprising an Internet-based system that is configured to send email messages to users in a format in which a user's browser application processes the email messages and provides a user interface for a user to view the email messages.

49. **(ORIGINAL)** The email server system of claim 48, wherein the set of heuristics considers the size of an email message.

50. **(ORIGINAL)** The email server system of claim 48, wherein the set of heuristics considers the number of specified user addresses that are specified by an email message.

51. **(ORIGINAL)** The email server system of claim 48, wherein the set of heuristics considers the number of invalid specified user addresses that are specified by an email message.

52. **(ORIGINAL)** The email server system of claim 48, wherein the server is further configured to place a pointer to the storage location in which the single copy of the email message is placed, in each dedicated user storage location that corresponds to a valid specified user address contained in the email message.

53. **(NEW)** An email filtering method comprising:

defining at least one heuristic that determines whether an incoming email message likely constitutes unsolicited commercial email by considering an established pattern that such unsolicited commercial email typically exhibits when it is sent;

applying said at least one heuristic to at least one email message; and

redirecting said at least one email message if application of said at least one heuristic indicates that said at least one email message likely constitutes unsolicited commercial email, wherein said redirecting comprises placing a copy of the email message at a location not dedicated to storage of just one particular user's email.

54. **(NEW)** The email filtering method of claim 53, wherein said redirecting comprises placing a copy of the email message at a single location from which it can be accessed by more than one intended recipient of the email message.

55. **(NEW)** The email filtering method of claim 53, wherein said defining comprises defining a plurality of heuristics that are independent of the message conveyed by any of the content contained in an email message.

56. **(NEW)** The email filtering method of claim 53, wherein said at least one heuristic has at least one parameter that can be adjusted, and further comprising adjusting said at least one parameter to vary the pattern that is considered.

57. **(NEW)** The email filtering method of claim 53, wherein said at least one heuristic considers a pattern associated with the number of specified recipient addresses of the email message.

58. **(NEW)** The email filtering method of claim 53, wherein the pattern is associated with the number of invalid specified recipient addresses.

59. **(NEW)** The email filtering method of claim 53, wherein said at least one heuristic considers a pattern associated with the size of an email message.

60. **(NEW)** The email filtering method of claim 53, wherein said at least one heuristic considers patterns associated with the number of specified recipient addresses of the email message and the size of the email message.

61. **(NEW)** The email filtering method of claim 53, further comprising after said redirecting, notifying at least one intended recipient that an email message intended for them has been redirected.

62. **(NEW)** The email filtering method of claim 53, wherein said redirecting comprising redirecting said at least one email message to a location that can be shared by a plurality of intended recipients for reading said email message, and further comprising after said redirecting, notifying intended

recipients of the email message that an email message intended for them has been redirected to said location.

63. **(NEW)** The email filtering method of claim 53, wherein said redirecting comprises storing only one copy of the email message.

64. **(NEW)** An email filtering method comprising:

receiving an email message at an email server that maintains inboxes for individual recipients;

calculating a score for the email message at the server location based upon at least one of (a) the size of the email message, and (b) the number of specified recipient addresses;

comparing the score with a threshold value that defines a likelihood of whether an email message constitutes an unwanted email message;

responsive to the email message exceeding the threshold value, placing a copy of the email message at a first location other than an individual storage location dedicated to an individual intended recipient of the email message; and

sending a notification to the intended recipients that a copy of an email message that was intended for them has been placed at the first location.

65. **(NEW)** The email filtering method of claim 64, wherein the threshold value is determined independent of the message conveyed by any of the text that is contained in any part of the email message.

66. **(NEW)** The email filtering method of claim 64, wherein the score is based upon both the size of the email message and the number of specified recipient addresses.

67. **(NEW)** The email filtering method of claim 64, wherein said first location is a storage location that is managed by the email server.

68. **(NEW)** The email filtering method of claim 64, wherein said threshold value is based upon the number of invalid specified recipient addresses.

69. **(NEW)** The email filtering method of claim 64, wherein said sending of the notification comprises placing a pointer in an email folder of each recipient of the email message.

70. **(NEW)** The email filtering method of claim 64 further comprising responsive to a request from a recipient, making a recipient copy of the email message and placing the recipient copy at a dedicated recipient storage location.